

## IN BRIEF

## GREY-TAILED PIHA IN COLOMBIA

A small collection of study skins received in the late 1960s from Colombia included an adult male and female Grey-tailed Phia *Lipaugus subalaris* taken on 15 May 1965 at Mocoa (580 m), Putumayo, by Arturo Pazos. Pazos recorded that the irides were black for both birds. The specimens, now nos 98588 and 98589 in the collection of the Department of Ornithology of the Royal Ontario Museum, are the first reported from Colombia.

Until now, this species has been recorded only on the eastern slopes of the Andes in Ecuador from several localities and one locality in Peru at about 10°40'S (Snow 1982, *The Cotingas*). The Mocoa specimen extends the range about 200 km north of the nearest known locality in Ecuador. Ecuadorean specimens have been collected at altitudes of 850–1350 km. The Colombian record is apparently from the lowest altitude recorded, and strengthens the likelihood that this little known species occupies a lower altitudinal belt than the very similar and better known *L. cryptolophus*, which has been recorded in Ecuador at 620–1750 m (Snow, *loc. cit.*) and in Colombia at 900–2300 m (Hilty & Brown 1986, *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*).

I wish to thank Dr David Snow for his valuable suggestions and contribution to this ms.

Department of Ornithology,  
Royal Ontario Museum,  
100 Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6,  
Canada.

JAMES A. DICK

6 March 1991

---

**BREEDING OF TAWNY PIPIT IN SOUTHERN MAURITANIA**

The presumed breeding of Tawny Pipits *Anthus campestris* in Somalia as reported by Ash & Miskell (1990) recalls similar records by Gee (1984) in southern Mauritania. In July and September (year not precise but lying between 1971 and 1974) birds carrying food were noticed near Nouakchott (18°09'N, 15°58'W). I decided to exclude these observations from a monograph dealing with this species (Isenmann 1985), as they did not seem to be documented well enough to establish breeding. Also, there had been no other evidence to suggest breeding by Tawny Pipits so far beyond their known range. In the light of what has been found in Somalia, I would be now less severe.

## References:

Ash, J. S. & Miskell, J. E. 1990. Presumed breeding of Tawny Pipits *Anthus campestris* in the Afrotropics. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 110: 222–224.